

Serial No.: 10/613,385
Docket No.: 12207.0900

REMARKS

Applicant replies to the Office Action dated February 10, 2006, within the shortened statutory period for reply. Claims 1-46 were pending in the application.

The Examiner has asserted a Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 requiring restriction of the application in the following Groups:

- I. Claims 1-15 and 41-43.
- II. Claims 16-40 and 44-46.

Applicant respectfully submits that examination of all currently pending claims would not pose an undue burden on the Examiner. Section 803 of The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." Applicant therefore respectfully requests examination of all currently pending claims.

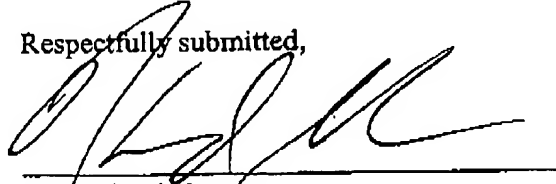
However, Applicant hereby elects Group II, consisting of Claims 16-40, 44 and 46, for prosecution in this application (claim 44 depends from claim 5 which is part of Group I, so Applicant also canceled claim 44 which will be pursued in a Divisional application). Applicants do not traverse, but not acquiesce to the Examiner's foundation for the Restriction Requirement as set forth in the Office Action. Accordingly, the foregoing election and cancelled claims are made without waiver, estoppel or without prejudice to the filing of one or more related applications directed to the subject matter of the canceled claims.

The foregoing amendments conform this application to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement dated March 7, 2006. Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any suggestions to place the application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below. No new matter is added in this Reply. Reconsideration of the application is thus requested. If an extension of time is needed, please accept this as a petition for said

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extension of time. Attorney for applicants authorize and respectfully request that any fees due be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2814, including any required extension fees.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: March 30, 2006

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